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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 037665

47
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY: NEA/AEGRIFFIN
APPROVED BY: NEA/AE GRIFFIN
S/S-O MR MACK
---------- 108859
O 161836Z FEB 76 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T STATE 037665

NODIS

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM AMMAN DTD 15 FEB 1976
QTE

S E C R E T AMMAN 0809

NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: MASS JO US MO IR
SUBJECT SECRETARY'S MESSAGE TO KING HUSSEIN--MOROCCAN AID

REF: STATE 036399, AMMAN 0797

1. I DELIVERED YOUR MESSAGE TO KING HUSSEIN ON THE
SUBJECT OF ASSISTANCE TO MOROCCO FEBRUARY 14.

2. HE READ THE MESSAGE WITH CARE AND SAID HE WAS VERY
PLEASED WITH THE POSITIVE NATURE OF THE RESPONSE. HE
ASKED ME ABOUT ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS ON THE F-5 TRANSFER
AND I TOLD HIM I EXPECTED THEY WOULD BE COMING SHORTLY
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(THEY HAVE JUST BEEN RECEIVED)

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3. THE KING SAID THEN THAT HE HAD THE RECOILLESS RIFLES READY TO GO, BUT HE DID WANT TO COORDINATE WITH THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT. I TOLD HIM THAT WE WOULD OF COURSE HAVE TO OBTAIN ASSURANCE FROM MOROCCO AND INFORM THE CONGRESS BEFORE ANYTHING COULD BE SHIPPED. HE REPLIED THAT BEFORE ANYTHING BEGAN TO MOVE HE WOULD LIKE ALSO TO MAKE SURE THAT ALL OF THE PARTIES UNDERSTOOD EXACTLY WHAT WAS HAPPENING. HE SAID HE DID NOT SEE HOW THE IRANIAN TRANSFERS COULD BE KEPT SECRET IF THE UNITED STATES HAD TO INFORM THE CONGRESS, ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT SEEM TO CONCERNED ABOUT THE ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEM.

4. HE ASKED IF WE WERE GOING TO BE IN TOUCH WITH MOROCCO ON THE QUESTION OF REPLACEMENTS.I SAID I THOUGHT I WOULD BE RECEIVING FURTHER INFORMATION ON THAT ASPECTS OF THE SUBJECT ALSO. FINALLY HE ASKED THAT WHAT WE WERE TELLING HIM ALSO BE SHARED WITH TEHRAN. AGAIN I TOLD HIM I WAS SURE THAT AMBASSADOR HELMS WAS BEING GIVEN EXECTLY THE SAME INFORMATION THAT I HAD RE CEIVED AND THAT WE WERE ALSO PROVIDING THE INFORMATION TO OUR AMBASSADOR IN RABAT SO THAT THE PROCESS OF CO-ORDINATION COULD BE SIMPLIFIED.

5. KING INDICATED THAT IN ADDITION TO RECOILESS RIFLES HE WAS ALSO PREPARED TO PROVIDE TWO MILLION ROUNDS OF 7.62 MM (NATO) AMMUNITION. HE SAID WHEN HE HAD RECEIVED THE ORIGINAL MOROCCAN LIST, HE WAS NOT AWARE THAT HIS OWN FORCES USED THIS AMMUNITION BUT APPARENTLY THE LIGHT WEAPONS IN SOME OF HIS BRITISH ARMORED VEHICLES DO REQUIRE THE SIZE AMMUNITION AND HE FEELS HE CAN SPARE IT. SINCE HE SAID IT IS NOT OF US ORIGIN HE WILL NOT BE ASKING US FOR PERMISSION TO MAKE THE TRANSFER. HE TALKED A LITTLE ABOUT THE ACTUAL MODALITIES OF TRANSFER, INDICATING THAT HE WOULD PROBABLY PLAN TO FLY ALL OF THE F-5A'S TO MOROCCO AND WOULD WANT AT LEAST SOME TECHNICAL ADVICE FROM US ON WHERE LANDINGS COULD BE MADE. THE HEAVIER EQUIPMENT HE THOUGHT WOULD BE MOVED BY SEA TO MOROCCO.

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6. WHILE I WAS WAITING TO SEE THE KING AT HIS RESIDENCE I WAS JOINED IN HIS STUDY BY MY IRANIAN COLLEAGUE. HE HAD JUST BEEN ON A TRIP TO TEHRAN. ACCORDING TO WHAT HE TOLD ME THE SHAH IS APPARENTLY NOT TERRIBLY EAGER TO MOVE IN THE DIRECTION OF SUPPORTING A DISTANT ARAB STATE AND PARTICUARLY NOT ANXIOUS TO DO SO DIRECTLY. THE IRANIAN DID NOT SEEM FAMILIAR WITH THE DETAILS OF WHAT WAS BEING PROVIDED BY IRAN OR JORDAN TO MOROCCO

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ALTHOUGH HE WENT TO TEHRAN FOR THE PURPOSE OF COORDINATING
IRANIAN AND JORDANIAN MOVES. HE ALSO DID NOT SEEM TOO SURE
OF HOW THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN NORTH AFRICA EVOLVED.
I SUGGESTED HE MIGHT WANT TO ASK KING HUSSEIN FURTHER
ABOUT THE DETAILS OF THE ARMS ARRANGEMENTS AND DID NOT
FILL HIM IN FURTHER. HE ALSO TOLD ME HE WAS UNABLE TO
TOUCH BASE AT A VERY HIGH LEVEL IN TEHRAN DURING HIS
TRIP.

7. COMMENT:ACCORDING TO OUR RECORDS AND POSSIBLY
CONTRARY TO KINGS INFORMATION CITED PARA FIVE ABOVE WE
HAVE FURNISHED SOME 7.62 MM AMMUNITION TO JORDAN UNDER
BOTH MAP AND FMS. (ALTHOUGH GOJ COULD HAVE ACQUIRED AMMO FROM
UK OR OTHER NATO COUNTRIES) I WILL POINT THIS OUT
TO GOJ AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY IN ORDER TO INSURE THAT GOJ SEEKS
US PERMISSION FOR TRANSFER IF AMMUNITION IN QUESTION
WAS IN FACT FURNISHED BY USG.
PICKERING UNQTE INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, MILITARY EQUIPMENT, CAT-B, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE037665
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NEA/AEGRIFFIN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: N760002-0070
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 2
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760245/aaaabnnn.tel
Line Count: 133
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 76 STATE 36399, 76 AMMAN 797
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUN 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <30 SEP 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECRETARY'S MESSAGE TO KING HUSSEIN--MOROCCAN AID
TAGS: MASS, JO, US, MO, IR, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (HUSSEIN I)
To: RABAT TEHRAN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006